Heritage Resources

The Umatilla National Forest is located in the northern Blue Mountains. The Blue Mountains are the ancestral homeland of people representing the northern Great Basin and the southern Columbia Plateau cultural traditions (Burtchard 1998). Culturally important plant species, such as biscuit root, bitter root, camas, huckleberry and chokecherry, are locally abundant. A variety of wild game and fish, including deer, elk, antelope, trout and salmon, provided additional food resources. Thirteen geochemically distinct natural obsidian deposits provided tool stone which was widely traded out of the area for over 8,000 years can be found south of the Umatilla National Forest on the Malheur National Forest.

The discovery of gold deposits in 1862 led to a rapid displacement of native people by Euro-American and Asian miners and settlers. The gold deposits were largely worked out by 1920, and ranching, which began in the 1860s, became the dominant economic activity. The commercial timber industry prospered as areas of the Forest were opened to timber harvest.

Since 1978 the Forest has actively conducted surveys for cultural resources as mandated by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. These surveys are generally done to identify cultural resources which could be negatively affected by project activities such as logging, cattle grazing and road construction. Since then over 2,442 inventories have been conducted leading to the identification of about 4,000 archaeological sites and historic features.

In 2004 the Forest Service signed a programmatic agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) which allows for streamlined compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act for numerous undertaking with limited potential to negatively affect cultural resources (Oregon SHPO 2004). As displayed in Table 26, the majority of the aquatics restoration project work covered by this analysis falls under the criteria of undertakings which can receive National Historic Preservation Act clearance using the streamlined procedures.

Table 26 below, displays the approach to National Historic Preservation Act compliance which would be used for each of the project categories listed in chapter 2 and fully described in the appendix.

Table 1 Common National Historic Preservation Act compliance strategies for aquatic restoration activities. Aquatic restoration project categories are described in more detail in appendix A. National Historic Preservation Act clearance categories are taken from the Oregon SHPO 2004.

Aquatic Restoration Project Category	National Historic Preservation Act clearance categories under the 2004 Preservation Act
1. Fish Passage Restoration (Stream Simulation Culvert and Bridge Projects; Headcut and Grade Stabilization; Fish Ladders; Irrigation Diversion Replacement/Relocation and Screen Installation/Replacement)	Culverts- A-27; Bridge design- Full Inventory; Crossing design- A-20; Head cut and Grade stabilization- A-20 or B-21; Fish Ladders- Full Inventory; Irrigation diversion- A-20 or Full Inventory
2. Large Wood (LW), Boulder, and Gravel Placement (LW and Boulder Projects; Engineered Logjams; Porous Boulder Weirs and Vanes, Gravel Augmentation; Tree Removal for LW Projects)	Large wood and boulder- A-20; Engineered Logjams- A-20, B-21 or Full Inventory; Porous Bolder Structures- A-20; Gravel Augmentation- A-20; Tree removal by felling- B-16; Tree removal by pulling/pushing- Full Inventory
3. Dam, Tide gate, and Legacy Structure Removal	A-28 or Full Inventory
4. Channel Reconstruction/Relocation	Full Inventory
5. Off- and Side-Channel Habitat Restoration	Full Inventory

Aquatic Restoration Project Category	National Historic Preservation Act clearance categories under the 2004 Preservation Act
6. Stream bank Restoration	A-2, A-3, A-4, A-20, C-11, C-34, Full Inventory
7. Set-back or Removal of Existing Berms, Dikes, and Levees	Full Inventory
8. Reduction/Relocation of Recreation Impacts	B-5, B-7, B-8, B-12, B-13, Full Inventory
9. Livestock Fencing, Stream Crossings and Off-Channel Livestock Watering	Livestock fencing- A-1, C-6; Stream crossings- A-1, B-2, B-6, Full Inventory; Off-channel watering facilities- B-6 or Full Inventory
10. Piling and other Structure Removal	A-28, C-25
11. Road and Trail Erosion Control	Road decommissioning and storm proofing- A-27, B-3, B-4, B-5, B-7, B-8, C-4, C-34; Road relocation- Full Inventory
12. Juniper Removal	A-15, B-16, Full Inventory
13. Riparian Vegetation Treatment (prescribed burning)	Burning- B-17; Non-commercial thinning- A-15, B-16
14. Riparian Vegetative Planting	A-1, A-2, A-3, A-4, A-5, A-16, B-1, B-16, C-2, C-9, C-11, C-34
15. Bull Trout Protection	C-7, C-9
16. Beaver Habitat Restoration.	In-channel structures- A-20, C-7, C-9; Habitat restoration- A-2, A-3, A-4, A-8, A-15, A-16, B-1, B-16, B-17, C-6, C-7, C-9, C-11,
17. Fisheries, Hydrology, Geomorphology Wildlife, Botany, and Cultural Surveys in Support of Aquatic Restoration	C-26

Affected Environment

The 3,999 cultural resource sites documented on the Forest as of 2016 include a mix of prehistoric Native American sites, historic period sites, and traditional cultural properties.

Prehistoric sites on the Forest are dominated by a variety of stone tools and tool fragments as well as the waste flakes associated with the manufacture of stone tools. These sites range from very small lithic scatters, indicative of expedient tool manufacture or reworking, to large sites with heavy lithic concentrations or stratified deposits of cultural materials, which suggest heavy and long-term use. Additional prehistoric site types include rock art, stacked rock features, cambium peeled trees, plant gathering and processing sites, and hunting camps. Human use of the area is believed to span the Late Pleistocene through the Holocene Epochs, a period of up to 14,000 years.

Most prehistoric sites are not directly associated with streams or riparian areas. They tend to be located in areas of drier ground sometimes near these locations but rarely in direct association. Most prehistoric sites would not be impacted by instream work but there can be conflicts in the adjacent drier areas if those are included in the proposed activity area.

Historic sites are primarily related to livestock grazing, timber harvest, mining, and Forest Service administration. Site types include cabins, mining camps, logging camps, refuse dumps, ditches, mine tailings, log watering troughs, lookouts, guard stations, railroad grades, bridges, wagon roads, trails and aspen carvings.

Many historic sites are not directly associated with streams or riparian areas although they may be located in areas of drier ground adjacent to these locations. Historic placer mining features including tailings, ditches, and holding ponds are a major exception and often require mitigation for aquatic restoration work. Historic railroad grades, trestles, and bridges also are sometimes in conflict with stream restoration projects.

Identified traditional cultural properties consist of plant gathering locations important to local Native American tribes. This may include significant patches of huckleberry, choke cherry, willow, biscuit root and bitter root. Traditional cultural properties are rarely in conflict with aquatics restoration projects.

Environmental Consequences

By following the terms of the 2004 Programmatic Agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office cultural resources would be identified and evaluated before any ground disturbing activities are authorized which could potentially negatively impact these resources. Cultural resource sites would either be avoided or any potential impacts would be mitigated following processes developed in consultation with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office.

Alternative 1- No Action

There would be no direct, indirect or cumulative effects to cultural resources under this alternative.

Alternative 2- Proposed Action

By complying with Section 106 of the NHPA using the processes outlined in the 2004 Programmatic Agreement with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office there would be no significant direct, indirect or cumulative effect to cultural resources under this alternative.

- Most work conducted under the proposed project is of a nature that has very limited potential to effect cultural resources. These are exempt from case-by-case review under appendices A, B, and C of the 2004 Programmatic Agreement. Those cleared under appendix B in that document would be inspected or monitored as required under the 2004 Programmatic Agreement.
- Most aquatic restoration work to be implemented under this project would have positive effects on traditional plant and animal resources valued by Native American tribes including significant treaty resources such as salmon, steelhead, and lamprey.